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President John F Kennedy

In this Issue...
The DPD Structure



President Kennedy and the First Lady greet astronaut Alan B. Shepard and his wife at the White House on 3 May 1961. A few days later Shepard became the first American, and the second man, to fly in space (a Mercury mission, named by Shepard "Freedom 7"). Shepard was later to become only the fifth man to walk on the moon (Apollo 14 mission, February 1971) and he gained a lasting reputation when he produced a home-made six iron and drove a few golf balls across the Moon's surface. Rear Admiral Alan Bartlett Shepard died this year, on 23 July 1998.

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Who was Richard Case Nagell's Mexico CIA contact?

by Tony Basing

Was it Robert Graham?

Dick Russell's excellent 1992 book *The Man Who Knew Too Much* reports Richard Case Nagell's relationship with 'Bob'.

'Bob' was Nagell's CIA contact in Mexico (1962/63) and was apparently a Soviet mole. Indeed it was 'Bob' who reputedly 'encouraged' Nagell to kill Lee Harvey Oswald in September 1963.

At the time of writing his book, Dick Russell was unable to identify 'Bob'. However, a statement which appeared in *Richard Case Nagell - The CIA Papers* (from the Anna Marie Kuhns-Walko Collection, published by JFK-Lancer) may provide a pointer for future investigation. The relevant piece appears in Nagell's response to Thomas Luce's article in *The Family* and is as follows:

"And it was a similar-sounding argument, ultimately reduced to a threat, that was advanced to me by Robert Graham as an incentive to dispose of Mr Oswald in September '63. But my refusal to do so had absolutely no bearing on the reason for effecting my arrest in the manner I chose, nor did it engender in me fear of reprisal by the CIA."

Is this ('Robert Graham') a reference to 'Bob'? Does/did Robert Graham actually exist? Is the statement true? Does anyone have any further information on this subject?

Mitch Werbell III

Nagell had a habit of making or writing tantalising but elliptical

remarks. One such statement appears in the notes to Dick Russell's book (Chapter Ten; note 33).

Sometime around October 1962 Nagell had been sent to a weapons specialist by Franz Waehauf (who was apparently connected to the Czech intelligence service). The weapons specialist provided a .22 calibre revolver equipped with a welded-on silencer. The original target was apparently Rolando Masferrer. Dick Russell reports Nagell alluding to a .22 calibre weapon being used not against Masferrer but possibly against JFK.

Nagell wrote: *"Do you lurch violently backward when hit in back of the head with a 6.5mm bullet? Which way does your head bounce if you are hit in the front with a .22 caliber hornet hollow-point? Backward? Forward? Sideways? Up? Down? Why did Franz Waehauf refer to the 'lil' ol' silencer maker"? Does smokeless powder give off a gigantic white puff?"*

Whilst he was imprisoned, and shortly before he was to be interviewed by a Garrison investigator, Nagell tried unsuccessfully to contact Franz Waehauf. Nagell was concerned that Waehauf would reveal that he had been referred to a man who equipped guns with silencers.

I wonder if this could possibly be a reference to Mitch Werbell III. He was a southerner (hence "lil' ol'") and the silencer was his trademark. According to Hinckle and Turner's book *Deadly Secrets*, his sound-suppressed machine guns made less noise than an IBM Selectric. He was apparently nicknamed "The Wizard of

Whispering Death" and supposedly designed and supplied special assassination weapons for the CIA.

"Gigantic White Puff of Smoke"

Other references in this Nagell extract are also intriguing, particularly those to a hollow-pointed bullet and to a gigantic white puff of smoke. A hollow-pointed bullet would, I think, have been capable of inflicting the explosive damage to JFK's head. A gigantic white puff; could this have been what some witnesses saw around the area of the grassy knoll?

The assassination of JFK occurred whilst Nagell was in jail but his comments are too directed to be just casual remarks.

Thanks

In closing, I would like to express my thanks to Anna Marie Kuhns-Walko; firstly for making her research files available to the research community, and secondly, on a more personal level, for her willing assistance and patience with my questions.

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